

Messianic Prophecies: Ezekiel

I. Majestic Refuge. II. Rightful Ruler. III. Faithful Shepherd

IV. SOVEREIGN TRANSFORMER

Ezekiel 36:24-38

I. The _____ of the transformation

A. Our _____: v24-28

Cf. 20:4-29 they rebelled constantly

11:18-21 only hope is a new heart & spirit

37:1-14 the dry bones revived

B. The _____: v28-38

Cf. 11:17-18

Cf. Isa 35

II. The _____ of the transformation

A. A **totally** transformed heart: v26

Beware New Year's resolutions that deal only with behavior and not your heart.

The primary thing is to get to know Jesus better. And to be quiet long enough before Him so that the Gospel penetrates your heart and the way you think and act.

It starts with the heart and works out, not the other way around.

B. Creation restored like the **Garden of Eden**: v35

But this did not happen after the exile.

In fact it *still* has not happened. Be honest. So what gives?

God's pattern of Provision and Promise

[Scott Hafeman: *The God of Promise and the Life of Faith*, ch 5]

From the Fall to Heaven: partial fulfillment and larger hope.

- Abraham: The Land
- Exodus: The Land
- Exile: The Land
- Messiah: 1st Coming: The Kingdom
- Messiah: 2nd Coming: The Kingdom

In every case God partially fulfills the Promises, enough to know He is supernaturally at work, but always leaving us to live by Hope in the final installment.

This is how to understand Ezekiel 36 (and all the prophets).

So the Spirit is a “down payment” of the Age to Come.”

We always live by **HOPE**.

Christmas is to remind us of Hope fulfilled and Hope **to be** fulfilled at Jesus' Second Coming.

The New Year reminds us that we are one year closer to the complete fulfillment of this prophecy. It could be in 2007!

Are you living in the light of that Hope?

Necessary for suffering, for obedience, for joy.

Come, Lord Jesus! (Rev 22:20)